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SHREVEPORT

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October 8, 2002

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The Honorable Jim McCrery
6425 Youree Drive Suite 350
Shreveport, LA 71105Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

congressman McCrery;

as a provider of private communication equipment for over the last forty years, and a licensee in the General Category pool of 800 MHz band, reoccurring concerns associated with the 800 MHz band, to say the least, have been testing. While we realize that our business is only a small piece of a large puzzle. the customers who utilize our system reach into every market segment.

From small service providers, such as plumbers and electricians, to local corporations, the need to communicate efficiently and cost effectively is common to all. We contend that these businesses, both large and small, are the true backbone of our economy. But in many cases, they are usually the first to suffer when new ruling and guidelines are acted upon.

The "White Paper" submitted to the Federal Communications Commission by Nextel last year is an example of implementing massive change without taking into consideration the thousands of businesses who would be unfairly affected. As we know, after this filing the horrible events of September 11th occurred. In March, in response to these events, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that incorporated the goals of Nextel's White Paper.

While we agree that public safety communications, through the use of the 800 band, is imperative to our homeland security, the end result of Nextel's White Paper would prove costly to thousands of companies, many who are already suffering in today's business environment.

Since the release of the NPRM, nine private wireless organizations, seven public safety organizations, and Nextel have crafted an industry-wide Consensus Plan, that achieves the Commissions goals with the least amount of disruptions to all involved in the 800 band.

Due to the reprogramming that will be required to administer the plan, the cost to us, as well as our customs will be significant. We collectively can live with this cost, but the alternative of losing the 800 band altogether would be devastating.

Will the proceedings regarding interference to the public safety sector sacrifice the well being of the people and businesses that locally and nationally support the cost of these entities, or will the Commission realize that the condition of private business is also a public concern.

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We urge the Commission to adopt the Consensus Plan, which supports all involved in the 800 band controversy. Please promote both the public safety community and the business sector by supporting the adoption of the Consensus Plan at 800 MHz.

Sincerely;


Leroy Faith
President